

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

COUNTRY CzechoslovakiaTOPIC 1. 1st Signal Regt in Praha-Ruzyne2. General Military InformationEVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT prior to March 1952DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 8 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

General Remarks.

1. Prior to July 1951, the 1st Sig Regt, called Kapitana Otakara Yarose, was quartered in a section of the barracks installation in Praha-Ruzyne. The soldiers wore blue-bordered black epaulets. Prior to 8 November 1950, the regiment was quartered in two barracks installations on either side of the road to Rakousy (O 51/G 25), at the northern exit of the town of Turnov. The so-called Lower Barracks was west of this road, and the Upper Barracks east of it.¹
2. The barracks installation in Praha-Ruzyne, called Kasarny 17 Listopadu (Barracks of 17 November), was just north of the Ruzyne railroad station. It consisted of about 20 one or multistory buildings and was surrounded by a wire fence, about 2 meters high, and on its southwest side by an iron fence resting on a low wall foundation. Radio masts, connected by an antenna, were on the headquarters building and another building.¹
3. Colonel Strejcek (fnu), who was still in command of the regiment for about a week after the regiment had arrived in Praha, was succeeded by his deputy, Major Vyskocil (fnu), in mid-September 1951. Until early 1951, Staff Captain Koudelka (fnu) had charge of the NCO school of the regiment in Turnov. Senior Lieutenant Prasil (fnu) was political officer of the regiment, Captain Blaha (fnu) in command of the 2d Battalion, Captain Lipovsky (fnu) in command of the "L"-Company of the 2d Battalion, and Staff Captain Baltez (fnu) in command of the 3d Battalion.¹
4. In July 1951, the 1928 and 1929 classes served with the regiment who had been drafted in the fall of 1950. The 1927 class was to be discharged in October 1951. The soldiers of the 1928 and 1929 classes were about half Czechs and half Slovaks.

Organization and Strength.

5. The regiment consisted of three battalions, of which the 1st and 2d Battalions had 3 companies each, the 3d Battalion 4 companies. The strength of each company was estimated at about 40 to 50 men. The total ration strength of all

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

25X1

- 2 -

battalions was about 800 to 900 persons as was indicated on the notice board in the kitchen. Other personnel of the company was detached to other posts for line construction. Apart from the battalions, there were also specialist units composed of telephone operators, radio operators, teletype operators and mechanics, altogether about 500 persons. They were graduates from the NCO school but details about their particular tasks were unavailable.

Ordnance and Equipment.

6. In the summer of 1951, the German rifles Mark 98 N were exchanged for Czech submachine guns Mark 48 B, and each company also had a light machine gun.
7. The telephones used were old German or Soviet sets, and each battalion had about 50 of them. About 30 USA-made and a large number of new Czech sets, the latter still contained in their wooden pack boxes, were stored in the depot. Old German telephone switchboards were used for every-day training and exercises. Portable radio sets which, at other times, were stored in another depot, were used during exercises. Large radio sets were also available. They were fitted with a rod antenna, about 2.5 meters long, and could be carried by two persons. The cables used were old German ones, 750 meters per reel, or Czech cables up to 1,000 meters per reel. In large-scale maneuvers only Czech cables were used. There was also a so-called OK cable, 250 meters per metal reel. Such a cable consisted of four individually insulated copper wires with a common rubber insulation, and was about 10 mm in diameter. Bare wire was used for permanent lines. IC-engine driven or pedal-operated generators were available.
8. In Turnov, the regiment had only a very small number of motor vehicles at its disposal, but this stock was increased to 70 to 80 new Praga RN-type, Dodge-type, Studebaker-type and Aero-type trucks, including about 30 radio trucks with telescopic masts. The trucks were fitted with a large circular hole in the roof of the driver's cabin. Some jeeps and motorcycles were also available. During large-scale exercises, the regiment was assigned temporarily up to 40 new Praga RN-type trucks from a unit stationed in Rakovnik (N 51/L 28).

Training and Employment.

9. Basic training in Turnov lasted three weeks and was followed by infantry combat training. Since 1950, telephone lines were laid on the ground. In the summer of 1951, a large-scale command-post signal exercise in which the whole regiment participated was held between Plzen (N 50/L 04) and Domazlice (N 50/P 70) and lasted three weeks. During this exercise, the 2d Battalion had to lay on OK cable line. The cable reels were transported on carts fitted with pneumatic tires. When the cable was laid along a road, the cables and carts were placed on the trucks and the cable unreel while the truck drove along, whereas in open country and in forests, the carts were drawn by men. It took about an hour to lay 14 kilometers of cable from the truck. The cable led to a command post staffed by a total of 60 officers including about 15 Soviet officers.
10. Political instruction included two two-hour lessons a week and a daily 20-minute lesson. Nearly all soldiers disliked these lessons. Prolong and other advantages mainly depended on the individual success of the respective participant. Solitary confinement was the punishment for public outbursts, and if the soldier repeated the offense, he was tried before a military court. There were only a few militant Communists among the troops.
11. On the occasion of lessons given by officers, soldiers were told that in case of emergency it was their duty to establish signal communications between the divisions and between the division and the regiments. 2

CONFIDENTIAL/

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

25X1

- 3 -

25X1

Miscellaneous.

25X1

12. Prior to July 1951, an AAA unit of about 500 men was quartered in the northeast section of the same barracks installation. These soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets. Three or four four-axle dual wheeled heavy guns drawn by heavy half track vehicles were frequently observed. At least nine men could be seated on these motor vehicles. Some Praga RN-type trucks were also observed.
13. In the spring of 1951, 60 female recruits arrived in the barracks installation in Ruzyně. They were given uniforms with blue-bordered black epaulets and were armed with rifles Mark 28 N. One female and several male NCOs gave the basic training. It was rumored among the soldiers that those women were to become regular NCOs. In June 1951, they were transferred to an unidentified destination.³
14. Prior to July 1951, supplies for the 1st Sig Regt were regularly picked up at the ration supply depot which was a few hundred meters south-southwest of Dr Benesov Square in the town district of Lubenec. This depot consisted of at least 15 to 20 one-story or two-story stone buildings and had four tracks.⁴
15. [redacted] an ammunition depot was under construction in the woods 3 or 4 kilometers southeast of Rakovnik and about 2 kilometers northwest of the village of Chlum. Workmen employed there stated that the building operations were begun in 1950. No other details were available.⁵
16. Prior to February 1951, a phone line was being laid in the area southeast of Strasice (N 50/L 34), and it was alleged that an AAA unit was to be quartered in a barracks installation on the east edge of the village. Heavy AAA guns drawn by half track vehicles were frequently seen. One of these guns was mounted on an outrigger-type mount without wheels [redacted] it had been transferred from Blada Koleslav (O 51/G 02) to Strasice in the fall of 1950. On one occasion, six tanks were seen leaving the barracks area. Other new buildings adjoining the barracks installation were under construction. A military penal unit was quartered in low wooden buildings near a small castle 3 or 4 kilometers southeast of Strasice.⁶
17. In June 1951, a unit of 30 men of the 1st Sig Regt was temporarily quartered in the Burg Kaserne in the southwest section of Blada Koleslav.
18. In the spring of 1951, a motorized artillery unit, equipped with guns without muzzle brakes and with small rubber tires, was observed in a barracks installation consisting of low wooden buildings, one-story stone buildings and permanent garages, about 1,000 meters southwest of the Jince (N 50/L 45) railroad station. The guns were only about 1 meter high. On one occasion, three tanks, of which one was allegedly a T-34 and the others were of a smaller type, were seen near the installation.⁷ A headquarters unit with a major was accommodated at a former three-story hotel near a road fork, about 100 meters west of the railroad station. There was a kitchen and quartering facilities for about 25 car drivers on the ground floor.
19. In November 1950, a large signal equipment depot was just southwest of the old town district of Hradec Kralove (Koeniggratz) (O 51/G 71) and on the east edge of a park at the junction of the Orlice and Labe Rivers. Some soldiers who were training on 70-mm to 80-mm guns were observed in the barracks installation near the depot.

CONFIDENTIAL/

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

25X1

- 4 -

- 25X1 1. [] Comment. The 1st Sig Regt is confirmed until July 1951. The 1st
 25X1 1stz Arty Regt was transferred from the Ruzyně barracks installation to
 Rakovník in November 1950. [] In September 1951,
 25X1 motorized artillery and mortar units were quartered in the two barracks
 installations in Turnov. [] Lt Colonel Strojček
 (fnu) mentioned in paragraph 3 was reported [] as commander of 25X1
 the 1st Sig Regt.
- 25X1 2. [] Comment. It is believed that wartime T/O provides a signal unit,
 probably a battalion, for each division. It is assumed that in case of
 mobilization, the existing signal regiments will be responsible for the
 initial organization of the division signal units which are still lacking
 at present.
- 25X1 3. [] Comment. The female soldiers were presumably transferred to the women's
 25X1 training center in the southern district of the town of Praha-Chuchle [] 25X1
 []
- 25X1 4. [] Comment. The large ration supply depot in Třebanec is confirmed until
 July 1951.
- 25X1 5. [] Comment. This ammunition depot was previously reported. [] 25X1
 It was reported that the storing of ammunition began. []
- 25X1 6. [] Comment. This confirms a report [] which was stated that 25X1
 a tank unit, allegedly the 23d Tank Brig, and a motorized artillery unit with
 half track vehicles were stationed in Strasice. In October 1951, about 600 PTP
 men, part of them of the 60th PTP Decin, were billeted in the hutment. They
 were erecting numerous new quartering buildings. [] 25X1
- 25X1 7. [] Comment. This is apparently a motorized AT unit, presumably the 204th
 1stz AT Regt which, as late as January 1950, was still equipped with old
 German 75-mm SP guns.

CONFIDENTIAL/